

WILLIAM THE SILENT AWARD

for Journalism

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Circle 7-0545

March 10, 1953

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence
1308 29th Street
Washington 7, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Under separate cover I have mailed you an invitation to the Award Dinner of the William the Silent Award for Journalism, to be held at the Carlton Hotel in Washington D. C. on Thursday March 26, at 7:30 P.M. on the occasion of the Third Presentation of this annual Journalism Award.

We cordially invite you and Mrs. Dulles to join His Royal Highness, the Prince of The Netherlands, as one of our special guests of honor.

As you may see from the speech by the Honorable Homer Ferguson in the Senate of the United States on March 4, 1952, copy of which I enclose, the people of The Netherlands established the annual William the Silent Award for Journalism to commemorate the 14 American correspondents who were killed in an airplane crash near Bombay on July 12, 1949. Senator Ferguson called the Award "a very important occasion in the annals of the free press of the world".

The Award consists of a gold medal and a cash prize of \$2,500 given every year to the American newspaperman who, in an American newspaper or magazine, writes the best story pointing up the democratic affinities between the United States and The Netherlands.

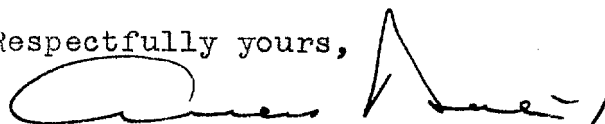
This year's Award judges will be the Presidents of the National Press Club, the Overseas Writers and the Gridiron Club and Mrs. Esther Van Wagoner Tufty representing the Women's National Press Club.

Master of Ceremonies on this memorial occasion will be Mr. Benjamin M. McKelway, Editor of the Evening Star of Washington D. C.

I am sure that not only to His Royal Highness the Prince of The Netherlands, but also to the Netherlands people who have established this Award, entirely from private, individual sources, your presence and that of Mrs. Dulles will be most inspiring.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Albert Balink', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Albert Balink
Chairman
Executive Committee

AB/EF
Enc.